WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus for security applications, the apparatus comprising:

an interface coupled to a storage network, the interface being adapted to receive a frame from the storage network;

a classifier coupled to the interface, the classifier being adapted to determine an information type associated with the frame, the type being an initiator, data, or terminator, the classifier being adapted to determine header information associated with the frame; and

a content addressable memory coupled to the classifier.

2. Apparatus of claim 1 wherein the content addressable memory comprises a rule portion and a flow portion, the rule portion being adapted to determine header information and command information from the initiator frame and the flow portion being adapted to provide a flow based upon the header information.

3. Apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

a central processing unit coupled to the classifier;

an action processor coupled to the central processing unit;

a security action processor SAP processor coupled to the central processing unit, the SAP being adapted to process data block by block; and

an encryption/decryption processor coupled the security action processor, the encryption/decryption processing being adapted to encrypt/decrypt the data block by block.

4. Apparatus of claim 1 wherein the initiator determines a read or a write process.

5. Apparatus of claim 1 wherein the content addressable memory comprises at least two MBit.

6. Apparatus of claim 1 wherein the interface is adapted to receive the frame through the fiber channel in a SCSI format.

7. Apparatus of claim 1 wherein the frame is associated with a SCSI frame format.

8. Apparatus of claim 1 wherein the classifier is provided on an integrated circuit chip.

9. Apparatus of claim 1 wherein the classifier is adapted to maintain wire speed operation while determining the information type and header information associated with the frame.

10. Apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a flow context random access memory coupled to the classifier, the flow context random access memory being adapted to store a policy based upon a flow, the flow being associated with the header information.

11. Apparatus of claim 1 wherein the classifier is used in determining access controls to target volumes & partitions.

12. Apparatus of claim 1 wherein the classifier is used in allowing access to specific targets only to authenticated hosts and, in some scenarios applications running on the hosts.

13. Apparatus of claim 1 wherein the aparatus is operable in a NULL port in a storage area network.

14. Apparatus for security applications of storage area networks, the apparatus comprising:

an interface coupled to a storage network, the interface being adapted to receive a frame from the storage network;

a classifier coupled to the interface, the classifier being adapted to determine an information type associated with the frame, the type being an initiator, data, or terminator, the classifier being adapted to determine header information associated with the frame; and

a content addressable memory coupled to the classifier, the content addressable memory comprises a rule portion and a flow portion, the rule portion being adapted to determine header information and command information from the initiator frame and the flow portion being adapted to provide a flow based upon the header information;

a central processing unit coupled to the classifier;

an action processor coupled to the central processing unit;

a security action processor SAP processor coupled to the central processing unit, the SAP being adapted to process data block by block; and

an encryption/decryption processor coupled the security action processor, the encryption/decryption processor being adapted to encrypt/decrypt the data block by block.

15. .Apparatus of claim 14 wherein the initiator determines a read or a write process.

16. Apparatus of claim 14 wherein the content addressable memory comprises at least two MBit.

17. Apparatus of claim 14 wherein the interface is adapted to receive the frame through the fiber channel in a SCSI format.

18. Apparatus of claim 14 wherein the frame is associated with a SCSI frame format.

19. Apparatus of claim 14 wherein the classifier is provided on an integrated circuit chip.

20. Apparatus of claim 14 wherein the classifier is adapted to maintain wire speed operation while determining the information type and header information associated with the frame.

21. Apparatus of claim 14 further comprising a flow context random access memory coupled to the classifier, the flow context random access memory being adapted to store a policy based upon a flow, the flow being associated with the header information.

22. Apparatus of claim 14 wherein the apparatus is not a switch or a router or a virtualization device.

23. Apparatus of claim 22 wherein the apparatus further comprises a switch or a router or a virtualization device.

24. A method for security applications for storage area networks, the method comprising:

receiving one or more frames at a security apparatus from a storage area network device through a fibre channel, the storage area network device being operated by client device, the client device being coupled to the storage area network device;

determining a frame type of the one or more frames at the security apparatus;

creating a flow process through one or more processors if the frame type of an initiator frame;

processing one or more subsequent frames associated with the flow process through the one or more processors at wire speed;

whereupon the processing is substantially transparent to a user of the client device.